

Application No: 10/520,232
Amendment A
Reply to Office Action Dated 07/26/2007

Attorney Docket No: 3926.127

REMARKS

Claims 29-53 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-28 have been cancelled.
Claim 29-53 have been added.

Specification

According to the Examiner's requirement, an abstract on a separate page has been provided.

The disclosure has been objected to because of informalities.

Appropriate correction has been made.

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference sign "27" mentioned on page 11, paragraph [00022] of the description.

The reference sign "27" has been changed to "28" which is clearly shown in the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-28 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

More specifically, the Examiner has stated that in the claims "positioning system" and "rough positioning system" are indefinite terms.

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Applicants do not understand why these terms are indefinite because they are commonly used in control and adjustment devices. For example, a microscope has a coarse adjustment knob and a fine adjustment knob.

The Examiner has also stated that "at least one direction of movement (24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34)", "at least one axis of movement (24, 26, 28)", and "predeterminable tolerance window" are indefinite.

The directions of movement are clearly shown in Fig. 1. The term "predeterminable tolerance window" has been changed to "predeterminable tolerance range".

The new claims have overcome the other deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-28 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 95/04203 (WO'203).

WO'203 discloses a method for cleaning facades and the like by a cleaning equipment which is mounted on a crane arm 7 by an adjustable head 11 that can be remotely controlled for the precise positioning of the cleaning equipment 13, 15 in relation to the façade 12. However, WO'203 does not disclose that:

- the movement of the cleaning head (18) is force-controlled by means of the fine positioning system (22) at least in one direction of movement selected from a plurality of possible directions of movement (24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34), the possible directions of movement (24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34) including directions of linear movement (24, 26, 28) along axes substantially orthogonal to one another and directions of rotation (30, 32, 34) about the axes,
- the cleaning head (18) has a three-dimensionally extending cleaning surface (48) and at least one stop shoulder (50), which can be moved with its cleaning stop surface

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(44) frontally against a component edge (52), while forming contact pressure, the cleaning head (18) being displaceable by means of the fine positioning system (22) along at least one direction of movement (24, 26, 28) within a predeterminable tolerance range, the fine positioning system (22) has for the directions of linear movement (24, 26, 28) of the cleaning head (18) a respectively assigned fine positioning element (38, 40, 42) for predetermining the contact pressure specific to the direction of movement, movements of the cleaning head (18) in the directions of rotation (30, 32, 34) are controlled by the coarse positioning system (20).

The Examiner has stated that changing the shape and direction of movement of the cleaning head depends on the shape of the surface to be cleaned (see the first paragraph on page 5 Of the Office action). However, it is noted that the cleaning head is part of the cleaning device and the specific shape and movement of the cleaning head are part of the present invention as claimed. If the shape and movement of the cleaning head are changed to, for example, as described in WO'203, then it no longer has anything to do with the present invention. Even if the process and device disclosed by WO'203 can be used to clean the surface mentioned in the claims of the instant application, WO'203 does not render the present invention unpatentable because the same surface may be cleaned by totally different processes and devices.

Claims 29 and 36 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 29 or 36, they are believed to be patentable as well.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0951.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully

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requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,



Yonghong Chen
Registration No. 56,150
Akerman Senterfitt
Customer No. 30448
222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 400
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Phone: 561-653-5000
Fax: 561-659-6313

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